Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Specification

The specification is amended as suggested to provide the patent number of the parent application.

Claim Status

Claims 31-62 are pending in this application. As no amendments, cancellation or addition of new claims is made, no listing of claims is required.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 31-62 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the admitted prior art, Fuchida et al. (USP 5,723,908) and Aoyama (USP 6,559,485). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The present invention is characterized by the relationships between the intervals of the conductive lines and the magnetic fields generated between the conductive lines. Claims 31, 41 and 55 are independent. In claim 31, the maximal value of the voltage generated between the third and fourth lines, which are away from each other by the second interval, is greater than the maximal value of the voltage generated between the first and second lines, which are away from each other by the first interval. In claims 41 and 55, the maximal value of the voltage generated between the first and third lines, which are away from each other by the second interval, is greater than the maximal value of the voltage generated between the first and second lines, which are away from each other by the first interval. These features are advantageous in that they prevent short-circuiting between the conductive lines, and enhance the reliability of the LSI (NAND flash memory).

These features are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. With respect to Fuchida, as noted in the Action, lines 2a are arranged at pitch Sg1 and lines 2b are arranged at pitch Sg2. However, the Action fails to appreciate that lines 2a and 2b are both power/ground lines. Since the power supply potential and the grounded potential are constant, the maximal value of the voltage generated

between lines 2a and the maximal value of the voltage generated between lines 2b are not different from each other. They are equal, and therefore cannot have the voltage differences between lines as specifically required by claims 31, 41 and 55. The object of Fuchida is to attain a high-speed operation by providing low-capacitance wiring layers, which bears no resemblance to the objects of the present The voltage generated between lines 2a and the voltage generated between lines 2b are considered to be the same (0V or a power supply voltage) at all times.

Neither the admitted prior art nor Aoyama remedies the deficiencies of Fuchida. Since all limitations of claims 31, 41 and 55, and claims 32-40, 42-54 and 56-62 dependent thereon, are not taught or suggested by the cited references, the rejections under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

Claims 31-62 are subject to a double patenting rejection as obvious over claims 1-30 of USP 6,649,945 in view of the admitted prior art. Enclosed to overcome this rejection is a terminal disclaimer.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration of this response. Any fees due with this response, including the terminal disclaimer fee, may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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